

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7020  
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Alversa Williams Lee  
on the celebration of her 95th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Alversa Williams Lee will celebrate her 95th birthday on January 5, 2006, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lee's father, Dennis Williams, was born into slavery, and her mother, Luella Williams, was the daughter of slaves; Alversa Williams was raised on her parents' farm in Haywood County before moving to Memphis in 1949; and

WHEREAS, during her more than 55 years as a resident of the Bluff City, Alversa Williams Lee has been a vital participant in community affairs; she organized and has served as President of her Neighborhood Improvement Club; has worked as a Block Coordinator for the Shelby County Democratic Club; and has served with distinction as a Boy Scout Neighborhood Chairperson, Girl Scout Leader, and NAACP membership worker; and

WHEREAS, when her children were younger, Mrs. Lee was actively involved in their education and school activities and was a moving force in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at the various schools they attended; she even founded the first PTA at Carnes Elementary School and served astutely as its President; and

WHEREAS, this special lady has served God and her fellow Christians as a devout member of Providence A.M.E. Church for 56 years, presently utilizing her singular talents as a member of the church's Board of Trustees and Stewardess Board; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lee is also a faithful member of the Sarah Allen Missionary Society, which she served as First Vice President for nine years and as President for 17 years; she was also a member of the Providence Senior Choir for many years and has served ably as Director of the Young People's Department, a Sunday School teacher, and NAACP Representative for the church; and

WHEREAS, she recently received special recognition from the West Tennessee A.M.E. Annual Conference for her fifty years of humble Christian service; and

WHEREAS, the very personification of the positive attributes of motherhood, Alversa Williams Lee has always been keenly aware of the importance of family heritage and history and the value of such information to her progeny; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded within her family as its griot, or historian, Mrs. Lee has wisely passed on to her children the history of their family; this exciting legacy includes Mrs. Lee's genealogical research and a written narrative of her recollections and memories; and

WHEREAS, although her formal education has been limited by life's circumstances, Mrs. Lee has not allowed this hardship to deter her from her quest for self-education and self-improvement, thus setting an inspirational example for her children as they have pursued their own education and dreams; and

WHEREAS, through her meritorious example and her iron will, Mrs. Lee has instilled in her children the ambition, fortitude, and ability to attain their goals, no matter how lofty or mundane; and

WHEREAS, a loving mother to 14 children, 14 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren, Mrs. Lee is no stranger to honors and accolades for her excellence as a matriarch; she has twice been named Mother of the Year, in 1967 by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and in 1984 by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; and

WHEREAS, Alversa Williams Lee enjoyed marital bliss with her husband, the late Robert Edward Lee, for 52 years before he went on to his great reward; and

WHEREAS, still possessing a vitality and a zest for life that is extraordinary for a person of any age, Mrs. Lee continues to be energetically involved in her community as she approaches the vintage age of 95; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that Mrs. Alversa Williams Lee be honored and congratulated upon the celebration of her 95th birthday. We wish this proud matriarch all the best and many happy returns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.